Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP).

This Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented in the catchments of Ramganga and Matatila in U.P. Chambal, Mahi, Matatila, Hirakud, Ukai, Tawa, Rengali-Mandira and Sardar Sarovar in M.P. and Dantiwada, Damanganga, Mahi, Ukai and Sardar Sarovar in Gujarat. So far an area of 1.24 lakh ha., 7.43 lakh ha. and 0.82 lakh ha. have been treated at expenditure of Rs. 35.9, Rs. 84.9 and 20.3 crores in the States of U.P., M.P., and Gujarat respectively.

Integrated Watershed Management in the catchments of Flood Prone Rivers (FPR)

This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented in the catchments of Sone, Gomti, Upper Yamuna and Upper Ganga in U.P. and in the catchment of Sone in M.P. So far 2.74 lakh ha. and 0.65 lakh ha. have been treated at expenditure of Rs. 68.1 crores and Rs. 16.36 crores in the States of U.P. and M.P. respectively.

Besides, the Department of Wasteland Development also implements land based development programmes in which soil conservation measures form a component.

Evolving a New Education Policy

1247. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken an initiative to evolve a new education policy by organising a series of symposia and conferences;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) broad objectives contemplated to be achieved under the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986, as updated in 1992 and its Programme of Action (POA), 1992 contain a comprehensive framework to guide the development of education in its entirety. The framework continues to be of relevance. However, to bring in greater expedition in the implementation of the programme in the thrust areas of education and to invigorate the education system, the Government has initiated a national debate on vital issues like Compulsory Primary Education, Load of School Bag, Examination Reforms, Value Education and Vocational Education through a series of regional seminars in various parts of the country involving a cross section of the society, *i.e.* public representatives, parents, students, media and academicians.

Newspaper Report on Cooperation with Italy and Austria

1248. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether he propose to visit/visited Austria and Italy to explore the cooperation of his Ministry to foreign companies for bringing technology into India and organising a workshop with TECHINI and DANIELI, the Italian rolling mill suppliers and world leaders inroll grinding technology as reported in Financial Express, New Delhi, dated 22nd November, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of countries with whom MOUs for Joint Ventures have been signed during the last three years indicating foreign investment in each project, expenditure incurred till 15th November, 1995 and balance available for steady growth of steel industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE